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SELL OUT OF PATIENTS' RIGHTS

PRESIDENT BUSH REPLACES
PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS WITH HMO
AND BIG INSURANCE BILL OF RIGHTS

"The House-passed [Patients'] bill overrides existing state protections and takes important patients' rights away from millions of Americans."

— AMA Board Chair Timothy T. Flaherty, MD
(Press Release 8/3/01)



This is a sad day for patients' rights in America. Yesterday, the President sold out the interests of patients' across this country by undercutting the true, bipartisan Patients' Bill of

Rights. **President Bush took the patients' rights bill, which was passed by the House two years ago and then passed by the Senate this year, and rewrote it into an HMO & Big Insurance Bill of Rights.**

Republican Charlie Norwood allowed himself to be pressured by the President into a meaningless agreement that actually sets back patients' rights. Patients' ability to protect themselves against HMO abuses, such as unfairly denying care, have now been trampled on by the President — all in the name of his HMO & Big Insurance donors. And the effects will be immediate; today's *Wall St. Journal* reported that the unprecedented restrictions on patients' rights would affect the present legal rights that patients currently hold in the states **"a day after President Bush and Rep. Charles Norwood announced the deal."**

Why did the Republicans ram this bill through the House without allowing the Democrats and health groups to analyze this bill for even one day??? The President and House Republicans abused the legislative process and undercut years of work in the course of one ugly day, all in the name of their special interest donors. **It is no coincidence that in the 2000 elections, special interest opponents of a real Patients' Bill of Rights gave more than \$51 million to Bush, the Republican National Committee and related GOP committees.**

Patients could now be left with diminished recourse to rectify HMO abuses and they have the President and the House Republicans to blame for this mess. As President Bush stands at the podium and grins like the Cheshire Cat — **patients across this country will suffer due to his raw political deal.**

"If you have to hold your nose and vote for this [Bush / Norwood amended] bill, then do it."

— Jonathan Karl quoting **Republican Rep. John Boehner** on CNN's *Inside Politics* 8/2/01.

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